Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An environmental load aggregation apparatus for aggregating environmental load information in life stages of a product, said environmental load aggregation apparatus comprising:

a part information storage device which stores part information on various parts or the product, said part information including information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts;

a process information storage device, which stores process information on a process relating to production of a part or the product, said process information being defined by a supplier of the part or the product and comprising information on environmental load items affecting environment in said process, information on a basic process corresponding to said process among basic processes that are defined by a predetermined rule and that relate to the production of the product, and information on a part to which said process is tied;

a stage definition information storage device, which stores stage definition information on a life stage of the product, the stage definition information being defined by ~~the supplier~~a maker of the product and comprising information on ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes assigned to said life stage, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage; and

an environmental load information aggregation device, which receives designation of the product and aggregates environmental load information in life stages of the designated product; wherein

said environmental load information aggregation device performs: processing for specifying each component part of the designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said part information storage device; processing for searching the process information storage device for process information on a process tied to each of the specified parts; processing for classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the ~~supplier~~maker of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device; and processing for aggregating the environmental load information included in the retrieved pieces of process information, for each life stage.

2. (original) An environmental load aggregation apparatus according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a basic process storage device, which stores basic process information on each basic process relating to production of the product; and

a stage definition information registration device, which registers stage definition information in said stage definition information storage device; wherein

said stage definition information registration device performs: processing for outputting basic process information on each basic process stored in said basic process information storage device, and receiving selection of a basic process assigned to a life stage of the product; and processing for registering stage definition information that has information on the basic process assigned to said life stage in said stage definition information storage device.

3. (original) An environmental load aggregation apparatus according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a basic process storage device, which stores basic process information on each basic process relating to production of the product;

an environmental load item storage device, which stores, for each basic process, environmental load items to be considered in each basic process; and

a process information registration device, which registers process information in said process information storage device; wherein

said process information registration device performs: processing for outputting part information of each part stored in said part information storage device, and receiving selection of a part to which a process to be registered is tied; processing for outputting information on each basic process stored in said basic process information storage device, and receiving selection of a basic process that is associated with the process to be registered; processing for outputting environmental load items stored in association with the selected basic process in said

environmental load item storage device, and receiving input of information on said environmental load items, said information being set to the process to be registered; and processing for registering process information that includes the selected part, the selected basic process, and the inputted information on the environmental load items, in said process information storage device.

4. (previously presented) An environmental load aggregation apparatus according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a part configuration information display device, which receives designation of the product, and displays the part information of each component part of the designated product, which is stored in said part information storage device, and the process information of a process tied to any component part of said designated product, which is stored in said process information storage device; wherein

each piece of process information stored in said process information storage device has a disclosure level indicating whether information on environmental load items should be disclosed or not; and

when said part configuration information display device displays the process information of a process tied to a component part of said designated product, the part configuration information display device displays the information on the environmental load items included in said process information, as is, when a disclosure level included in said process information permits disclosure of the information on the environmental load items, and displays a life cycle assessment

value calculated from the information on the environmental load items included in said process information, when said disclosure level does not permit disclosure.

5. (currently amended) An environmental load aggregation method, in which a computer aggregates environmental load information in life stages of a product, wherein:

a storage unit of said computer stores: part information, which is information on various parts or the product and includes information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts; process information, which is information on a process relating to production of a part or the product, said process information being defined by a supplier of the part or the product and comprising information on environmental load items affecting environment in said process, information on a basic process corresponding to said process among basic processes that are defined according to a predetermined rule and relate to the production of the product, and information on a part to which said process is tied; and stage definition information, which is information on a life stage of the product, the stage definition information being defined by ~~the supplier~~a maker of the product and comprising information on ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes assigned to said life stage, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage; and

an operation unit of said computer performs:

a step of specifying each component part of a designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said part information storage device;

a step of searching the process information storage device for process information on a process tied to each of the specified parts;

a step of classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the ~~supplier~~maker of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device; and

a step of aggregating the environmental load information included in the retrieved pieces of process information, for each life stage.

6. (original) An environmental load aggregation method according to Claim 5, wherein each piece of process information stored in said storage unit has a disclosure level indicating whether information on environmental load items should be disclosed or not;

said operation unit further performing:

a step of receiving designation of the product, and displaying the part information of each component part of the designated product and the process information of a process tied to any component part of said designated part, with said part information and said process information being stored in said storage unit; and

a step of displaying, wherein, when the process information of a process tied to a component part of said designated product is displayed, the information on the environmental load items included in said process information is displayed, as is, when the disclosure level included in said process information permits disclosure of the information on the environmental load items, and a life cycle assessment value calculated from the information on the environmental load items, which is included in said process information, is displayed when said disclosure level does not permit the disclosure.

7. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium, wherein a storage unit of a computer stores: part information, which is information on various parts or a product and includes information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts; process information, which is information on a process relating to production of a part or the product, said process information being defined by a supplier of the part or the product and comprising information on environmental load items affecting environment in said process, information on a basic process corresponding to said process among basic processes that are defined by a predetermined rule and relate to the production of the product, and information on a part to which said process is tied; and stage definition information, which is information on a life stage of the product, the stage definition information being defined by ~~the supplier~~a maker of the product and comprising information on ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes assigned to said life stage, the stage definition

information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage; wherein

said program realizes, in an operation unit of said computer:

a function of specifying each component part of a designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said part information storage device;

a function of searching the process information storage device for process information on a process tied to each of the specified parts;

a function of classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the ~~supplier~~maker of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device; and

a function of aggregating the environmental load information included in the retrieved pieces of process information, for each life stage.

8. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 7, wherein:

each piece of process information stored in said storage unit has a disclosure level indicating whether information on environmental load items should be disclosed or not;

said program further realizes, in said operation unit:

a function of receiving designation of the product, and displaying the part information of each component part of the designated product and the process information of a process tied to any component part of said designated part, with said part information and said process information being stored in said storage unit; and

said function of displaying displays, when the process information of a process tied to a component part of said designated product is displayed, the information on the environmental load items included in said process information, as is, when the disclosure level included in said process information permits disclosure of the information on the environmental load items, and displays a life cycle assessment value calculated from the information on the environmental load items, which is included in said process information, when said disclosure level does not permit the disclosure.

9. (currently amended) An environmental load aggregation apparatus for aggregating environmental load information in life stages of a product, said environmental load aggregation apparatus comprising:

a part information storage device, which stores part information on various parts or the product, said part information including information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts;

a process information storage device, which stores process information comprising information on a basic process relating to production of the product,

which is defined by a predetermined rule, and information on a part to which said process information is tied;

an environmental load information storage device, which stores environmental load information comprising information on a basic process and information environmental load items affecting environment in said basic process;

a life stage definition information storage device, which stores stage definition information comprising information on one or more basic processes assigned to each life stage of the product by a maker of the product, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage; and

an environmental load information aggregation device, which receives designation of the product and aggregates environmental load information in life stages of the designated product; wherein

said environmental load information aggregation device performs: processing for specifying each component part of the designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said part information storage device; processing for searching the process information storage device for process information on a process tied to each of the specified parts; processing for classifying retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of the designated product, which is stored in said stage definition information storage device; and processing for reading environmental load

information including information on a basic process included in each of the retrieved pieces of process information, from said environmental load information storage device, and aggregating the environmental load information included in the read pieces of process information, for each life stage.

10. (original) An environmental load aggregation apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an environmental load information registration device, which performs: processing for receiving information on environmental load items together with designation of a life stage; and processing for specifying basic processes constituting the designated life stage and for registering environmental load information that includes the specified basic processes and the received information on the environmental load items to said environmental load information storage device.

11. (currently amended) An environmental load aggregation method, in which a computer aggregates environmental load information in life stage of a product, wherein:

a storage unit of said computer stores: part information, which is information on various parts or the product and includes information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts; process information, which comprises information on a basic process relating to production of the product, said basic

process being defined according to a predetermined rule, and information on a part tied to said basic process; environmental load information comprising information on a basic process and information on environmental load items affecting environment in said basic process; and stage definition information comprising information on ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes assigned to each life stage of the product by a maker of the product, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage; and

an operation unit of said computer performs:

a step of receiving designation of the product through an input unit;

a step of specifying parts constituting the designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said storage unit;

a step of searching said storage unit for each piece of process information tied to each of said specified parts;

a step of classifying the retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of said designated product, which is stored in said storage unit; and

a step of reading environmental load information including information on a basic process included in each retrieved piece of process information, and aggregating information on environmental load items included in the read pieces of environmental load information, for each life stage.

12. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium, wherein:

a storage unit of a computer stores: part information, which is information on various parts or a product and includes information on other parts having a parent-child relationship to the various parts; process information comprising information on a basic process that is defined according to a predetermined rule and relates to production of the product, and information on a part tied to said basic process; environmental load information, which comprises information on a basic process and information on environmental load items affecting environment in said basic process; and stage definition information, which comprises information on one or more basic processes assigned to each life stage of the product by a maker of the product, the stage definition information differing among different makers who assign different basic processes to said life stage; and

said program realizes, in an operation unit of said computer:

a function of receiving designation of the product through an input unit;

a function of specifying parts constituting the designated product, using the part information of each part, which is stored in said storage unit;

a function of searching said storage unit for each piece of process information tied to each of said specified parts;

a function of classifying the retrieved pieces of process information according to a life stage to which a basic process included in each piece of process information is assigned, using the stage definition information of said designated product, which is stored in said storage unit; and

a function of reading environmental load information including information on a basic process included in each retrieved piece of process information, and aggregating information on environmental load items included in the read pieces of environmental load information, for each life stage.

13. (currently amended) The environmental load aggregation apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the life stages of the product are each a component process of a life cycle of the product and are each defined by the ~~supplier~~maker of the product by assigning ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes from among the plurality of basic processes to the life stage, and

wherein the plurality of basic processes as defined by the predetermined rule are common to different suppliers.

14. (currently amended) The environmental load aggregation method according to Claim 5,

wherein the life stages of the product are each a component process of a life cycle of the product and are each defined by the ~~supplier~~maker of the product by assigning ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes from among the plurality of basic processes to the life stage, and

wherein the plurality of basic processes as defined by the predetermined rule are common to different suppliers.

15. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 7,

wherein the life stages of the product are each a component process of a life cycle of the product and are each defined by the ~~supplier~~maker of the product by assigning ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes from among the plurality of basic processes to the life stage, and

wherein the plurality of basic processes as defined by the predetermined rule are common to different suppliers.

16. (currently amended) The environmental load aggregation apparatus according to Claim 9,

wherein the life stages of the product are each a component process of a life cycle of the product and are each defined by the ~~supplier~~maker of the product by assigning ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes from among the plurality of basic processes to the life stage, and

wherein the plurality of basic processes as defined by the predetermined rule are common to different suppliers.

17. (currently amended) The environmental load aggregation method according to Claim 11,

wherein the life stages of the product are each a component process of a life cycle of the product and are each defined by the ~~supplier~~maker of the product by assigning ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes from among the plurality of basic processes to the life stage, and

wherein the plurality of basic processes as defined by the predetermined rule are common to different suppliers.

18. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 12,

wherein the life stages of the product are each a component process of a life cycle of the product and are each defined by the ~~supplier~~maker of the product by assigning ~~a~~one or more basic ~~process~~processes from among the plurality of basic processes to the life stage, and

wherein the plurality of basic processes as defined by the predetermined rule are common to different suppliers.